

**CITY COUNCIL BUDGET SESSION  
CITY OF WATERTOWN  
May 18, 2010  
6:30 P.M.**

**MAYOR JEFFREY E. GRAHAM PRESIDING**

**PRESENT:**           **COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS  
COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER, JR.  
COUNCIL MEMBER TERESA R. MACALUSO  
COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH  
MAYOR GRAHAM**

**ALSO PRESENT:**   **MARY M. CORRIVEAU, CITY MANAGER**

**City Staff Present: James Mills, Eugene Hayes, Kurt Hauk, Gary Pilon, Peter Keenan, Barbara Wheeler and Ken Mix**

**Multi-Year Financial Forecast page 274-292**

Mrs. Corriveau and Mr. Mills reviewed this section of the budget with Council. Mrs. Corriveau advised that utilizing the fund balance now will have an impact on the long term as this year's action will affect years out.

Mr. Mills also commented that the fund balance can't continue to be a fixed revenue source.

Council reviewed the water and sewer 5-year plan.

Council Member Burns asked for a print out of the high volume users for a future meeting.

Mayor Graham suggested the elimination of the highest tier of the water billing system, which would mean that the largest users would pay more per gallon.

A report will be prepared for Council concerning the numbers for sewer and water.

**Capital Budget – page 242 and Information Technology – page 94-98**

Peter Keenan, Information Technology Manager, answered questions concerning laptop replacements for the Police and Fire Departments. He explained that in the past these were purchased with grant funding. He advised that they are finishing the fiber project and should have the PSB connected to it in about 30 days. All of the city facilities will then be connected except the Mill Street Fire Station. He explained the GIS mapping that was done for the Fire Department and the cartograph project for Public Works.

### **Capital Budget- page 270 and Library page 212-220**

Barbara Wheeler, Library Director, answered questions posed by Council. Proposed capital expenses include roof rehab and cooling tower replacement. She explained that they are applying for a library construction grant that might help pay for some of these costs.

She explained that, while they do host events and charge a small fee, they do limit it. She also advised that they are constantly looking at how libraries can change and grow as technology develops. Mrs. Wheeler advised that the list of people who have fines is not something that can be released to the public. She also advised that these have been released to a collection agency. However, with the transient population, it is very difficult to contact people when they leave no forwarding address.

In answer to a question concerning fund raising, Mrs. Corriveau advised that fund raising has to be done by Friends of the Library, not by board members.

Council Member Butler asked about the summer reading program.

Mrs. Wheeler explained that it is a very successful program that is led by the Children's Librarian. In the past, she has been aided by library interns. These interns are college students that need to complete 240 hours of service. They are not paid. Mrs. Wheeler commented that she will know by the end of the month if interns will be available.

Mayor Graham commented that the City Manager could make a recommendation on how this could be accommodated if a paid individual would be required. Council concurred.

Mrs. Wheeler commented that two more security cameras need to be hooked up outside. She explained that the cameras have been a great success.

### **Capital Budget- page 241**

Council Member Smith revisited the arena roof and beams discussion from the previous meeting.

Mr. Hayes answered questions about the Bernier Carr report.

Mayor Graham commented that he did have a problem going over this particular topic and reliving four years ago.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that staff looked at the priority list from the report and put down the same items.

Council Member Smith responded that the report states replacement of the roof and the budget shows roof surface recoating.

Mayor Graham asked if it was the will of the Council to bond for \$1.4 million to put a new roof on the arena. He remarked that while Mr. Hayes may have changed the priorities, he did so in an effort to stay within the budget.

Council Member Smith asked if the roof was failing.

Mr. Hayes responded that the roof is not failing. The protective coating is failing.

After a lengthy discussion, Mayor Graham asked if they could receive clarity on what the \$1.4 million covers.

Mrs. Corriveau will get that information for Council.

#### **Capital Budget – page 265**

Kurt Hauk, City Engineer, reviewed this with Council. The project involved slip lining the Western Outfall Trunk Sewer from Wealtha Avenue to the Waste Water Treatment Plant diversion structure.

#### **Capital Budget – page 266**

Council reviewed the J.B. Wise parking lot project.

Gary Pilon, Water Superintendent, explained that there is a 16” cast iron water main that ties into Court/Coffeen Streets and this had a couple of serious breaks a few years ago. It needs to be replaced. A 6” cast iron pipe services the building and should also be replaced.

Mayor Graham remarked that the City has an obligation to this project because of all the grants that have been received, even though he is not pleased with all aspects of the spending.

Mrs. Corriveau advised that the City has spent \$175,000 for design, so it is not just the \$75,000 that the City would be spending if the project was not going to be completed.

Ken Mix, Planning and Community Development Coordinator, explained that the project would include a covered walkway, pedestrian connection to the riverwalk and storm water bio-retention areas.

Council Member Macaluso asked if it had to be done right now.

Mr. Mix commented that we might be able to get another year before we would need to do it. However, some of the grants are older. He also explained that there is not a lot more to spend before the City is at the bidding point.

Mayor Graham commented that he favors doing the project.

Council Member Macaluso responded that she is not sold on the project.

Council Member Butler remarked that if things stay as they are now or improve, he would support the project.

Council Member Smith advised that he would think about it and have his decision for the next meeting.

#### **Capital Budget- page 248 and Revenues –page 6**

Discussion was held on recycling and trash pick up schedules, as well as the need to advertise our rates.

Mr. Hayes advised that Mr. Monaco has been working with Inkwell Graphics in an effort to have the rates posted on the side of the trucks.

Mr. Mills advised that they are looking into having ACH available for tote payments.

Mr. Hayes explained that the City's rates are lower. He advised that he will get a memo to Council regarding direct hauling. He also advised that he had contacted the City of Albany and they do have night, as well as day, pick up. The reason is because of the traffic congestion in the streets during the day. We do not have that type of congestion. However, he explained, that staff is looking at the present routes.

#### **Capital Budget – page 257, 258, 264**

Council reviewed these pages for Madison Avenue and Columbia Street as well as the Gaffney Drive Pump Station Upgrade.

#### **Ogilvie Project**

This project will include rehab and remediation at this site at a cost of \$40,000

#### **Central Street**

Council was advised that the work on Central Street will be done this week.

#### **Washington Street**

Mrs. Corriveau commented that DPW also has the Washington Street project from the City limits to Flower Avenue.

#### **Gaffney Drive Sewer Easement**

Mrs. Corriveau advised that the City is trying to work with the owners of the property to acquire the easement. The owners, who reside in Canada, have recently received a proposal from the City.

### **Next Budget Session**

Council agreed to meet at 6:15 p.m. on Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup> for a budget session prior to the adjourned meeting at 7 p.m.

Budget session ended at 10:30 p.m.

**Donna M. Dutton**  
City Clerk